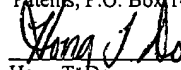


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Neil Brown & Karl Nesselrode	§	Art Unit: 3673
	§	
Serial No.: 09 / 925,788	§	
	§	
Filing Date: August 9, 2001	§	Examiner: John Kreck
	§	
Title: APPARATUS, METHOD AND	§	
SYSTEM FOR WELL-SOLUTION	§	
MINING	§	Docket No.: A30588US

CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING

I hereby certify this correspondence was deposited with the United States Postal Service, with sufficient postage for Express Mail Post Office to Addressee, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 19, 2004.


Hong T. Do

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Commissioner:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION ISSUED OCTOBER 2, 2003

In response to the outstanding Office Action issued October 2, 2003, Applicants Neil Brown & Karl Nesselrode hereby amend the above-referenced U.S patent application as follows:

- I. **Remarks** begin on page 2;
- II. **Amendments to the Drawings** begin on page 3;
- III. **Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 4;
- IV. **Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 6;
- V. **Arguments** begin on page 12; and
- VI. **Conclusion** begins on page 14.